

# AIB College of Business

2500 Fleur Drive  
Des Moines, IA 50321

Jane Weingart, CSR, RPR, RMR  
Board of Trustees Chair

Nancy Williams  
President

**Below are important facts relating to the professions of Court Reporters and Captioners as they relate to AIB College of Business.**

## **History**

AIB College of Business (AIB) was founded in Des Moines in 1921. Although we cannot say for sure that court reporting education was delivered from the beginning, it was added to the curriculum early in the college history, some time during the 1920s. AIB graduates were trained using the Stenograph machine. As technology evolved, so did the equipment used by certified court reporters. The invention of “realtime reporting,” allowed computer technology to enable the instant translations from the Steno machine shorthand to English. With this technological improvement came another new career – that of a captioner. Captioners record and instantly translate all live television broadcasts, as mandated by Federal law. They provide instant translation services for the deaf and hearing impaired. They provide captioning for conventions, church services, and educational lectures. AIB educated court reporters and captioners work nationally and around the world. Currently, there are several court reporters working in Washington, DC, as freelance reporters, captioners and for the United States Government. In fact, graduate JoEllen Dicken, is the director of the United States Senate Captioning Department. The legislative system as we now know it is dependent on the **accurate record** created by these dedicated professionals.

## **In Demand**

The career of court reporting has spanned many generations and, although predictions were made that it would become obsolete or that technology would replace it, the opposite has been true. In every case, this has not happened. In fact, the demand for court reporters and captioners remains high in Iowa and across the nation.

AIB College of Business, located in Des Moines, Iowa, is one of a few colleges nationally that teach court reporting and captioning. AIB graduates are in demand and nearly all have employment upon completing their degrees. Over the years, the curriculum has been updated and expanded and graduates now earn a Bachelor of Science degree. They must also pass proficiency tests and become licensed by the State of Iowa. (Curriculum Attached).

Since 2004, there have been 149 graduates of court reporting and captioning from AIB. From August 2008 to present (just one year) the college has received 71 requests for court reporting graduates for positions as official court reporters and to work for freelance firms (this does not include requests for

captioners). In addition, many firms attend the AIB annual career fair and personally recruit the graduates. Requests have come from the following Judicial Court Systems this year for official court reporters:

- Arizona
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Missouri
- Nebraska
- New York
- North Dakota
- South Dakota
- Wisconsin

Requests for freelance reporters come from around the country as well. (Attached employers report from Jane DeHaven, Director of Career Services).

### **Economic Impact**

Although enrollment in court reporting and captioning fluctuates a bit, on average over the last 10 years, there are 152 students enrolled at AIB each year in these majors. These students come primarily from Iowa, but many do come from other states due to the college reputation for excellence in court reporting and captioning education. There are eight full time faculty and three support staff dedicated to court reporting and captioning education. This is the third largest academic program for AIB and it represents a significant economic impact on the college budget.

Since 2002, the program at AIB has been supplemented by six Federal congressional directed grants totaling \$2.9 million dollars. Iowa Senators Harkin and Grassley have been instrumental in supporting this educational funding, knowing the importance of the work performed by court reporters and captioners. Senator Harkin has requested an additional \$400,000 for the AIB court reporting and captioning program in the upcoming budget year.

The State of Iowa has enjoyed the positive impact of AIB College of Business and the court reporting education it provides. To eliminate the certified court reporters in Iowa courts would be a detriment to all involved. Technology no matter how advanced will continue to need human intervention. The true cost of eliminating court reporters in Iowa is truly immeasurable, in our opinion. Eliminating these positions and careers for Iowa students, will send the graduates out-of-state to work, something that state leaders are trying to reverse.